

City, School Bus Systems May Be Combined

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

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TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
AdvertisingDA 5-6060
Women's NewsDA 5-6380
News DepartmentDA 5-6060

Series U, Volume IV, Number 58



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California - Wednesday, January 17, 1968

By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 Per Year

10c Per Copy 52 PAGES



PLANNING PARADE . . . Harry Gorman, resident manager of Great Lakes Properties, Inc., and three Scouts take a break from a parade planning session to take a look at the Del Amo Financial Center. Gorman is general chairman for the 1968 Boy Scout Parade, to be staged in Hermosa Beach Feb. 3. With him are (from the top) Tom Juarez, 19, a member of Law Enforcement Explorer Post, 694E; Tom Beach, 12, of Torrance Boy Scout Troop 718; and Ronnie Jacobson, 10, a Cub Scout in Pack 964. Previous Boy Scout parades have been held in Torrance. (Press-Herald Photo)

City Council Clashes On Publicity Program

Mayor Attacks Plan to Hire 'Publicity Man'

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer
City Councilmen last night clashed over a proposal to institute a community information program, airing a wide range of opinions.

recommended non-civil service status for the post to prevent it from "degenerating into a vehicle for personal advancement."

Debate ended with a decision to put off action until budget time, since the proposal calls for the hiring of an administrative assistant to organize the program. Traditionally, new employees are hired during budget considerations except in an emergency.

IT WOULD TAKE a "superman," Isen said, to carry out duties of the proposed position and would also rob other departments of their informational functions. Complaints, he insisted, should be referred to their proper departments, not to a "publicity man."

A committee composed of Councilmen Ross A. Sciarrotta, Jay Beasley, and Ed Talbert had recommended approval of the information program proposal. Basically, the committee said the city needs a better planned program of information on city activities and problems. The report also said money now being spent on public information could be better spent through central coordination of efforts.

Councilman Ken Miller labeled the mayor's objections "over-emotional and over-dramatic," praising the "honorable intentions" of the three committeemen. However, he disagreed with the proposal and refused to support any measure to increase the city manager's staff.

MAYOR ALBERT ISEN denounced the measure as an attempt to institute "managed news" and "censorship," proclaiming the proposal to be "fraught with danger."

VOICING HIS approval of the proposal, Beasley cited the "desperate need" of the city of Torrance to get "reliable, factual information to the people." Beasley also injected his belief that no city official will be able to mold the information post to his own advantage as long as the City Council keeps tabs on the situation.

The mayor also ridiculed the idea that the proposed position would remain free of politics because of the non-civil service nature of the job. The committee's report

Also in favor of the general concept of a public information officer is Vern Smith, representing the Citizens' Advisory Committee. He said that the people of Torrance don't feel they're getting sufficient information about city programs and services.

Approve Sale of Library Bonds Worth \$800,000

Wells-Fargo Bank was declared low bidder for \$800,000 worth of Torrance library bonds at last night's City Council meeting. Wells-Fargo Bank was selected from a field of seven well-known banking institutions.

Board Eyes Land for Parking

The Torrance Board of Education authorized the purchase of a parcel of land on Plaza del Amo for use as a parking lot for Torrance High School.

Under terms of the bond agreement, the city of Torrance will pay Wells-Fargo \$413,900 in interest on the \$800,000 bond loan over the next 20 years. The average net cost was listed as 4.2648 per cent.

According to Finance Director William W. Dundore, however, the city may not have to pay the full \$413,900 if it does not hold the bonds for the entire 20-year term. The interest rate would be reduced if the city has sufficient funds to pay back the loan before the time is up.

The district will offer \$180,000 for the purchase of the property. A description of the parcel was not given.

Supporting the acquisition of the parking facility at Monday's school board meeting was Dr. Carl R. Ahee, school principal. He said the property also would become valuable to the district for future expansion of school facilities.

TORRANCE residents voted a \$2,350,000 library bond issue at a special election in April, 1967. This money is being borrowed as it is needed to proceed with the new Torrance library system now being organized.

A representative of Rafferty and Co., the city's financial advisor, told City Councilmen that Torrance citizens should be pleased with the bidding pattern because bids were below last week's bond bidding index. "It's not always that we can recommend the acceptance of a bid with the enthusiasm we do tonight," he stated.

A CONTRACT for the construction of a baseball field at Torrance High School and a track at North High School was awarded to Moulder Brothers for \$65,475. The company was low bidder among eight firms.

Approximately \$55,000 of community service funds may be used to help pay for these projects, according to Superintendent J. H. Hulls' report.

COUNCILMEN also came to a decision concerning the extension of Onyx Street in the vicinity of Madrona and (See COUNCIL, Page A-3)



JOHN FAULKNER JR.
Wins Silver Star

Torrance Soldier Honored

A 20-year-old Torrance soldier has been awarded the nation's fourth highest military medal for gallantry in action in Vietnam.

Army Pfc. John W. Faulkner Jr., son of Mrs. Nan Conley Faulkner of Torrance, was awarded the Silver Star for heroic action in maintaining communications during a Viet Cong sniper attack near Loc Ninh, Vietnam, during Operation Shenandoah II.

Pfc. Faulkner, a 1965 graduate of South High School, is attached to the Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Division, as a radio-telephone operator.

FAULKNER's unit was pursuing Viet Cong snipers when they were subjected to a heavy barrage of claymore mines, automatic weapons fire, and rockets by a concealed Viet Cong force. Faulkner was wounded in the initial attack, but refused to give up his post until he became too weak to work effectively.

The citation accompanying the Silver Star reads in part: "With complete disregard for his personal safety, he (Faulkner) exposed himself to relentless hostile fire as he followed the battalion commander throughout the battle area, keeping him informed of Viet Cong movements and relaying his instructions to subordinate commanders. In addition to maintaining flawless communications, he provided protection for himself and the command group by (See SOLDIER, Page A-3)

Merger Could Kill Rapid Transit Sale

A proposal to put the Torrance school bus system under the management of the municipal bus lines is currently being considered by the city. The proposed merger could mean that the city will abandon plans to sell the municipal bus system to the Southern California Rapid Transit District.

Purpose of the proposed merger is to cut expenditures of both the school and municipal bus lines, perhaps putting them on a paying basis. Also aimed at cutting the \$100,000 per year municipal

bus deficit is a plan to raise the base rate by five cents, bringing in an estimated \$33,000 more in bus revenues each year.

"The value of the municipal bus system is beyond money, said Mayor Albert Isen, reiterating his belief that the city should not sell the money-losing bus system to RTD.

Councilmen agreed to form a committee composed of Mayor Isen and Councilmen Ken Miller and Jay Beasley, to look into the proposed

merger of the municipal and school bus systems.

Councilmen, with the exception of Mayor Isen, recently voted to sell the municipal system to RTD but the sale faces court battles before it's finalized. The mayor has refused to sign the measure into law and must appear in court to present his reasons for not signing the sale papers.

Also slated to be tested in (SEE BUSES, Page A-3)

TRUSTEE SPEAKS

Council Hit on Salary Measure

If the city councilmen get an open end pay hike, they'll have to do it over the objections of Bert M. Lynn, president of the board of education, he let it be known here this week.

In remarks prepared for delivery at noon today before the Sertoma Club, Lynn called the proposal an "open-end tax exposure."

The plan, as suggested last week for a charter amendment on the April ballot, would tie the pay of councilmen onto a state law which sets pay for general law cities. Presently the pay is \$300 a month but is subject to change by the Legislature.

Lynn, who led an attack on the proposal to tack the pay question on a school board ballot last year, challenged the contention that the taxpayers owed the councilmen the raise for dedicated service.

"I believe we pass this way just once; we all owe our community and country some dedication of service, and—

yes—for free," he declared. The school trustee and former Planning Commission president cited the greatness of America and said it was because "we have dedicated commissioners, committeemen, church and temple trustees, Girl and Boy Scout leaders, PTA, Little League, Pop Warner, Y's Men, League of Women Voters, and thousands of school trustees . . . all serving their communities for free."

Lynn declared he felt the \$100 a month salary, plus Urban Renewal Agency Pay, plus "unlimited travel and expense accounts" were ample compensation.

Councilmen were granted the \$100 a month salary by approval of a charter amendment in 1956. Two years ago ballot proposals to raise the salaries to \$300 for councilmen and \$400 for the mayor were soundly defeated.

Last year's move to put a pay raise on the ballot was cancelled just before the ballot deadline.



LEND ME YOUR BACK . . . Mayor Albert Isen (right) uses Ralph Grippo's back as a desk while signing a proclamation designating the week of Jan. 21 through 27 as "Jaycee Week in Torrance." Grippo, who is president of the Torrance Jaycees, was joined by Hal Lindborg of the Jaycees for the ceremony. Isen commended the Jaycees for their efforts on behalf of the city's youth and for their community service projects and urged all citizens to join in the salute. During the week, the national Jaycees will salute America's 10 Outstanding Young Men of 1967 at a St. Paul, Minn., awards dinner. (Press-Herald Photo)

First Candidate in Race - - -

Dr. Donald E. Wilson, 44-year-old vice president of the Torrance Board of Education, today became the first candidate to publicly declare his candidacy for the City Council. Dr. Wilson, director of teacher education at the University of Southern California, confirmed his intention to seek the council seat in an interview with the Press-Herald. He said he had given the decision "very serious thought" and wants to help "put Torrance forward as a model city and help it assume its role of leadership in this area." Three council seats are at stake in the April 9 municipal election. Filing for the election opens Jan. 25.

Torrance Man Killed - - -

Twenty-eight-year-old Kenneth Grant Olson died early Monday morning as a result of injuries sustained Sunday when his car apparently ran off the Riverside Freeway near Corona. Olson, of 1612 W. 223rd St., died about 1 a.m. Monday in a Corona hospital, California Highway Patrol officials reported. The crash occurred late Sunday evening, it was reported.

Court Delays Sentencing - - -

A probation and sentencing hearing for Ralph Philip Rodriguez, a 27-year-old Torrance sign painter convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the death of Karline Lee Robinson, has been delayed to Jan. 31. Judge Donald Dunbar, who conducted the trial, is on vacation and Superior Court Judge Robert Wenke ruled the hearing should be delayed so Judge Dunbar could conduct the proceeding. Miss Robinson, 21, was killed following an argument which erupted after a traffic accident in the Carson area.

Heart Attack Claims Life Of Area Man

A Torrance production engineer died early Monday morning at Little Company of Mary Hospital shortly after he had entered the hospital complaining of pains in his chest and left arm.

Pronounced dead at 4:30 a.m. was 51-year-old George H. McNeill of 3831 W. 173rd St. He was given oxygen and pain medication when he checked in at 3:45 a.m. Preliminary cause of death was listed as heart failure.

McNeill's wife Barbara was present to make identification.